

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. and 2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a first acquisition section, arranged to acquire color data of an object;

a second acquisition section, arranged to acquire spectral distribution data,

which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region, from

a plurality of spectral distribution data ~~on the basis of the configuration of spectral~~

~~distribution data defined~~ in accordance with the acquired color data; and

an estimator, arranged to estimate the spectral distribution data of ~~[[a]]~~ the

total wavelength region on the basis of ~~the configuration of~~ the spectral distribution data

acquired by said second acquisition section~~[[; and]]~~

~~a generator, arranged to generate the spectral distribution data of the total~~

~~wavelength region from the acquired color data and the plurality of spectral distribution~~

~~data, on the basis of the estimated spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region.~~

4. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~the~~

~~configuration of spectral distribution data~~ acquired by said second acquisition section is

defined as a combination of the spectral distribution data.

5. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, ~~wherein the configuration of~~ further comprising a generator arranged to generate the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region from ~~is defined by a spectral distribution defined in accordance with the color data~~ acquired by said first acquisition section and the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region estimated by said estimator.

6.(currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the combination of the color data and the configuration of the spectral distribution data acquired by said second acquisition section is predetermined.

7. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~the configuration of the spectral distribution data~~ acquired by said second acquisition section is arbitrarily changeable.

8. and 9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): An image processing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring color data of an object;

acquiring a spectral distribution data, which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region, from plurality of spectral distribution data ~~on the basis of the configuration of spectral distribution data defined in accordance with the~~ acquired color data; and

estimating the spectral distribution data of ~~[[a]]~~ the total wavelength region
on the basis of ~~the configuration of~~ the spectral distribution data acquired in the second
acquiring step~~[[; and]]~~

~~generating the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region from
the acquired color data and the plurality of spectral distribution data, on the basis of the
estimated spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region.~~

11. and 12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A computer program product stored on ~~storing~~
a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for an image
processing method, comprising process procedure code for:

acquiring color data of an object;

acquiring spectral distribution data, which is necessary to estimate spectral
distribution data of a total wavelength region, from a plurality of spectral distribution data
~~on the basis of the configuration of spectral distribution data defined in accordance with the~~
acquired color data; and

estimating the spectral distribution data of ~~[[a]]~~ the total wavelength region
on the basis of ~~the configuration of~~ the spectral distribution data acquired in the second
acquiring step~~[[; and]]~~

~~generating the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region from
the acquired color data and the plurality of spectral distribution data, on the basis of the
estimated spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region.~~